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Intelligence Information Cable

STATE/INR NMCC/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA [REDACTED] NSC/S 3DO NIO CRS PAGE 1 OF 9 PAGES

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DIST 13 SEPTEMBER 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DO: [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT AGREEMENT AT [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 1974 JCIA MEETING
ON PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING PRISONER OF WAR EXCHANGE
AND DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS

SUMMARY: [REDACTED]

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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END

SUMMARY.

1. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS REPORT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION [REDACTED] WHICH REPORTED THE RESULTS OF A JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 1974 TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR THE PRISONER OF WAR (POW) EXCHANGE ON 19 SEPTEMBER AT PHONG SAVANH ON THE PLAIN OF JARS. THE POINT AGREED UPON [REDACTED] ON [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER, WITH SOME SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS, WERE ADOPTED BY THE FULL JCIA MEETING ON [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER. THOSE MINOR CHANGES AND ADDITIONS PLUS OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE PLenary SESSION FOLLOW.)
2. THE 35TH PLenary SESSION OF THE JCIA WAS HELD ON [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER AND

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(dissemination)

PRESIDED OVER BY VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N
VILAYSAN AND LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) CHIEF DELEGATE
S O T H PHETRASY. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS AND CHANGES
TO THE MILITARY SUB-COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS
WERE AGREED UPON BY THE JCIA:

A. BEFORE THE TEST FLIGHT STARTS ON 17
SEPTEMBER, THE LPF WILL ORDER ALL UNITS OF ITS FORCES
ALONG THE FLIGHT PATH AND AROUND THE PLAIN OF JARS
NOT TO FIRE AT THE TEST FLIGHT OR AT THE FLIGHTS
CARRYING POW'S ON 19 SEPTEMBER OR AT OTHER FLIGHTS
CARRYING OBSERVERS AND INVITED GUESTS.

B. THE JCIA HELICOPTER WHICH WILL TAKE
OFF BEFORE THE TEST FLIGHT WILL CARRY THE FOLLOWING
PEOPLE: THE PILOT, CO-PILOT, ONE OTHER CREW MEMBER,
TWO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC) MEMBERS, FOUR
JCIA REPRESENTATIVES (TWO FROM EACH SIDE), TWO TECHNICAL
EXPERTS ON AIRPORTS, AND FOUR GROUND-TO-AIR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL.

C. THREE MEMBERS OF THE JCIA FROM EACH SIDE
WILL BE ON BOARD THE TEST AIRCRAFT.

D. THE POW EXCHANGE LIST EXCHANGED ON 17

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SEPTEMBER WILL BEAR THE FOLLOWING FORM: "LIST OF THOSE CAPTURED AND DETAINED DURING THE WAR IN LAOS, NATIONALITY, DELIVERED TO THE (VIENTIANE OR LPF SIDE) AT PHONGSAVAN." THE LIST MUST INCLUDE NAME AND SURNAME, NATIONALITY, DATE OF BIRTH, PLACE OF BIRTH, FATHER AND MOTHER, HUSBAND OR WIFE'S NAME.

E. IT WAS AGREED THAT TEN ARMED SECURITY GUARDS WOULD BE ON BOARD EACH AIRCRAFT CARRYING POW'S BEING TURNED OVER BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE.

3. THE JCIA MEETING ALSO ADDRESSED ITSELF AS FOLLOWS TO THE SUBJECT OF OBSERVERS:

A. THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAO PRESS, ONE EACH FROM THE NEWSPAPERS "SAI KIANG", "FUNFU XAT" AND "THE VIENTIANE POST" WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND.

COMMENT: "FUNFU XAT" IS THE PAPER OF THE ASSOCIATION CALLED THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMULGATION OF YOUTH AND NATIONAL RENOVATION HEADED UP BY JCIA DELEGATE COLONEL L O U N SISOONOL.)

B. TEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN PRESS WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND. COMMENT: THE

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAD FORWARDED A MORE EXTENSIVE LIST OF FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD APPLIED TO ATTEND. THE LIST HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY EACH SIDE AND IT WAS DECIDED TO RETURN THE LIST TO THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND REQUEST THE MINISTRY SELECT TEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LIST. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 37 FOREIGN JOURNALISTS HAD APPLIED TO COVER THE POW EXCHANGE.)

C. TWO PRESS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND FROM AGENCE LAO PRESS WILL ATTEND.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NOTIFIED THE JCIA THAT THEY PLAN TO SEND FIVE REPRESENTATIVES. THE LPF OBJECTED SAYING THAT TWO WAS SUFFICIENT.)

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] THE LAO NATIONAL RADIO OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAD ALSO APPLIED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.)

D. TWO LPF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL ATTEND.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: APPARENTLY THESE WILL BE FROM THE LPF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE IN VIENTIANE AND NOT FROM SAM NEUA.)

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E. THE JCIA WILL SEND FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SIDE INCLUDING SUPPORT PERSONNEL [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AS TO WHO WILL ATTEND FROM THE VIENTIANE SIDE. SOUKAN HAS SAID HE DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND. DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATE DR. K A T H O N G VONGSAY MIGHT ATTEND ALONG WITH TWO OTHER JCIA DELEGATES AND TWO SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVES.)

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F. NO REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND. MANY REQUESTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE JCIA WHICH DECIDED IT COULD NOT HONOR SOME AND NOT OTHERS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE JCIA HAD NOT CONSIDERED INVITING REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTRIES WHOSE NATIONALS ARE EXPECTED TO BE EXCHANGED ON 19 SEPTEMBER, NAMELY, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE THAI, THE AMERICAN AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSIES.)

4. TURNING TO OTHER MATTERS, SOTH ACCUSED THE VIENTIANE SIDE OF ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF ITS ZONE OF CONTROL AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LPF BY TAKING LPF POSITIONS IN THE SOUTH AND IN THE NORTH. SOUKAN DID NOT RESPOND TO THIS ACCUSATION.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS PROBABLY REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT BY THE LPF TO SHIFT THE BLAME FOR GRABBING POSITIONS TO THE VIENTIANE SIDE BEFORE THE LATTER ACCUSES THE LPF. [REDACTED] MILITARY REGION (MR) II COMMANDER GENERAL V A N G PAO HAS SENT THREE PROTESTS TO THE JCIA CONCERNING PATHET LAO (PL) ATTACKS IN THE BAN NA (TG 8536), REQUESTING THAT A FORMAL PROTEST

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BE REGISTERED WITH THE JCIA. SO FAR NO PROTESTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SHELLINGS BY THE PL IN MRS I AND IV.)

5. SOTH CHARGED THAT A LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAMP CHINAIMO WENT TO ALL THE JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF) PRECINCTS IN VIENTIANE TWICE BETWEEN 11 AND 12 SEPTEMBER TO EXHORT THE VIENTIANE SIDE POLICE AT THESE PRECINCTS TO BE ON THE ALERT. SOTH NEXT CLAIMED THAT AN L-19 LIGHT OBSERVATION PLANE CIRCLED OVER VIENTIANE AND FLEW DIRECTLY OVER THE LPF PROTECTIVE MILITARY FORCE (PMF) ENCAMPMENT JUST NORTH OF THE CITY.

6. SOTH THEN SAID THAT 11 THAIS, ARRESTED BY THE MILITARY IN LUANG PRABANG AND SENT TO VIENTIANE FOR TURNOVER TO AUTHORITIES THERE, WERE NOT TURNED OVER TO THE JPF ON ARRIVAL AT WATTAY AIRPORT BUT INSTEAD WERE FLOWN DIRECTLY TO THAILAND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THE THAIS WERE ARRESTED BY PMF FORCES IN LUANG PRABANG; HOWEVER, THE VIENTIANE SIDE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET GIVEN DETAILS ON WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY WERE CHARGED

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WITH AND WHAT HAPPENED.} SO TH NEXT PROTESTED AGAIN
THE ESCAPE OF THE TWO THAI MILITARY PERSONNEL
ARRESTED FOR GAMBLING IN THE RAID OF AN ILLEGAL GAMBLING
CASINO IN VIENTIANE. THEY ESCAPED FROM CENTRAL PRISON
AND MADE THEIR WAY TO THAILAND.

7. TO THE ABOVE CHARGE, SOUKAN SAID THE MINISTRY
OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE THE ESCAPE
OF THE TWO THAIS AND WILL BE ASKED ABOUT THE 11 THAIS. SOUKAN
ALSO SAID THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE COLONEL LOUN
SISOUNOL WILL QUERY FAR REGARDING THE L-17
FLIGHT OVER THE CITY AND THE LPF CAMP AND ABOUT
THE ALLEGED MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE CONTACTING JPF
PRECINCTS IN THE CITY.

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